

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

AID-05 OMB-01 /070 W

----- 021049

R 050222Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3237

COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMIPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 2380

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJ: ACTIVITY IN THE HIGHLANDS AND ON QL-19

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION IMMEDIATE SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON

MAR 04 FROM NHA TRANG REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NHA TRANG 0123

DAO FOR AOSOP-OR/IS/IX

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: ACTIVITY IN THE HIGHLANDS AND ON QL-19

1. SINCE EARLY THIS MORNING (MAR 4) BRIDGES AND OUTPOSTS ALONG QL-19 BOTH IN BINH DINH AND IN PLEIKU PROVINCES HAVE BEEN ATTACKED. IN ADDITION, KONTUM CITY WAS SHELLLED EARLY THIS MORNING AND AT ABOUT 1600 THIS AFTERNOON PLEIKU AIRBASE RECEIVED APPROXIMATELY TWENTY 122-MM ROCKETS.

2. IN BINH DINH NEAR BINH KHE (BR 716406) AT 0630 THIS MORNING

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VC SAPPERS BLEW UP A BRIDGE COMPLETELY STOPPING ALL TRAFFIC.

ARVN ENGINEERS BELIEVE THAT THEY MAY BE ABLE TO COMPLETE REPAIRS ON IT BY 1000 TOMORROW. AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME AT BR 640470, ARVN FORCES CLASHED WITH COMMUNIST FORCES ATTEMPTING TO INTERDICT THE HIGHWAY. AS OF THIS AFTERNOON FIGHTING WAS STILL GOING ON IN THE VICINITY OF THE INITIAL CONTACT. ALSO EARLY THIS MORNING ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO CUT QL-19 NEAR BR 578438 RESULTED IN 12 NVA KIA AND 2 AK-47'S AND ONE M-60 MACHINE GUN CAPTURED. A DOCUMENT ON ONE OF THE NVA DEAD INDICATES THAT HIS UNIT BELONGED TO THE NVA 12TH REGT. FINALLY, AT 1040 THIS MORNING, TWO 82-MM MORTAR ROUNDS HIT THE BINH KHE MARKETPLACE. NO CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED.

3. SIMILARLY, IN PLEIKU PROVINCE AT 0700 THIS MORNING, THE 223RD RF BN LOCATED 14 KM ENE OF LE TRUNG WAS ATTACKED AND RADIO CONTACT WAS LOST WITH THE UNIT 30 MINUTES LATER. AT THE SAME TIME, FIRE SUPPORT BASE 94 (BR 135540) WAS SHELLED AND AN ARMORED CAVALRY UNIT WHICH REACTED TO THE ATTACK RECEIVED 75-MM RR FIRE. TWO APC'S WERE BURNED AND AT 0730 RADIO CONTACT WAS LOST WITH FSB 94. AT 0930, BRIDGE NO. 30 AND THE RF UNIT DEFENDING IT WERE ATTACKED. RADIO CONTACT WAS LOST AND THE BRIDGE WAS LATER REPORTED TO BE DESTROYED. FINALLY, BRIDGE NO 31 LOCATED 20 KM ENE OF LE TRUNG WAS ATTACKED AT 0700. RADIO CONTACT WITH THE RF UNIT DEFENDING IT HAS ALSO BEEN LOST.

3. DETAILS RE THE ROCKETING OF PLEIKU AIRBASE ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE BUT OBSERVERS HAVE REPORTED THAT SOME FIRES WERE STARTED. SIGNED
SPEAR
UNQUOTE
LEHMANN

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